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AP English Literature and Composition

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Literary Analysis Writing Log Reflection

The literary analysis essay was the first writing assignment of AP English Literature and Composition. I was nervous, as would be expected, because I had not composed anything but text messages all summer. However, once I got going on my essay I found that the ideas were coming just as easily as they had last year. I was able to form my own literary analysis of Hemingway’s “Hills like White Elephants.” I am very proud of my essay, especially because this was the first writing assignment of the year.

What I did better than last time was that reduced the number of lower order concerns in my essay (of course now that I say this my reflection will be filled with grammatical mistakes). In AP Composition 11 I had trouble recognizing lower order concerns. As the year progressed I was able to lower the number of errors in my writings. This essay had four lower order concerns. This was a smaller number compared to my average of six last year. I have been working hard at finding and recognizing lower order concerns in my papers. It has actually reached a point where I don’t include the errors in my writings; the lower order concerns don’t find their way as easily into my essays. I know that I was worth to be an AP English Literature and Composition student because during the previews at the movies I recognized a lower order concern in an advertisement.

My essay was well written, however, there are a few things I need to do to take my writing to the next level. I need to spend more time writing my essay. Sometime I find myself rushing through the first draft to “get it out.” I need to slow down and make sure I develop my thoughts clearly. My number of lower order concerns may be lower, but I still need to work on weeding errors out of my essay. I plan on reaching this goal by proofreading my papers more closely. Finally, I often get a good idea but don’t finish it. I often “run” with an idea and get so excited I forget to complete my thought. I need to be sure to complete my ideas.

I have learned that I am a good writer from this essay. I am particularly pleased with the third and fifth paragraphs. After rereading them, I realized that I had some good ideas that clearly developed and fully explained. I also used more semicolons to attach similar ideas. I am starting to develop my own style. This essay has bolstered my confidence while showing me that I still have more to learn. I have a positive outlook on essays to come this year; I believe that by the time I am ready to graduate I will be an even better writer than I am today.